SATURDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1906.

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Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

### The Harlot and the Policeman.

There is anxiety and trouble in the underworld of this town. And well may

Every great city will always have its full quota of vice, vice preventable and unpreventable, vice inseparable from the universal and eternal weakness of human nature; vice to be eradicated by necessary and wise laws, and vice that can never be eradicated any more than the ordinary emotions of humanity can be extinguished, but which can be restrained within the conventions of decency and of order and not allowed to transcend the limitations of scandal or noxious example.

The moral nature and the moral common sense of this town are perhaps none too sensitive. They are very much the same as those of any other big and overgrown community in any part of the world. In fact, we can stand almost anything that any other town can stand. But what we cannot stand and will not put up with is the furtive and criminal compact between vice and authority. We can tolerate and we can be indifferent to an immense amount of the various evils that infest society (and we ought, no doubt, to be deeply ashamed of it), but we never get really stirred to resentment, never get heated to real passion, until we unearth depravity in the relation of vice with the law.

There is an ugly and a dangerous feeling, but a creditable feeling, aroused in this community when it is disclosed that its unhappy harlots are the slaves of the police, that their miserable wage is wrung from them by the very guardians of the law itself, and that our whole police system is perverted and depraved into a vast engine of traffic in human bodies and human souls. The laws are made the property of the police. We make the law and pawn it with the gambler and with the harlot. The law for the harlot and the law for the gambler are merciless in their terms, but they are on the statute books to be sold by the police. They are a remunerative, a most profitable commodity, these laws, and vice is cultivated and crime promoted in this town that the harvest by the sale of the law may be as great as possible. Thus it has come about that the effect of a statute is to encourage and to spread vice instead of to restrain and suppress it.

We see police captains and other fficers possessed of great wealth, notoriously gained by the sale of the law to harlotry and gambling. The well informed point to others in power than the police themselves, to men of weight and influence in the political life of the town, who have to have their share of the usufruct of sin. It is all understood and accepted from one end of the town to the other. There is no mystery anywhere; no shame anywhere; nothing but that brazen defiance which is founded in the belief that money, whatever its source, justifies everything.

But there is trouble in this underworld. The man at the head of the police is an able and an honest man who knows no fear. He is slowly penetrating the labyrinth of crime almost inscrutable in its complexity and in its baffling ingenuity Since we sounded the depths of moral rottenness we have never had a man like General BINGHAM to deal with our great moral canker. If there is any man who can uproot the evil and cast it out it is he. And hand in hand with BINGHAM is JEROME, and what he is it. needs no word from us to explain.

# Some Flaws in the Flawless.

President ROOSEVELT seems to have been misinformed as regards certain of the more or less important details of the "crisis in Cuba." At least, it would seem so in view of the following utterance in his message:

"The readiness and efficiency of both the arm; and navy in dealing with the recent sudden crisis in Cuba illustrate afresh their value to the nation. This readiness and efficiency would have been very much less had it not been for the existence of the General Staff in the army and the General Board in the navy; both are essential to the proper development and use of our military forces affoat and ashore. The troops that were sent to Cuba

Of course, there is nothing to be said by way of criticism in connection with the navy. The conduct of that branch of the service was in all respects, as Mr. ROOSEVELT aptly describes it, "flawless." Our ships appeared upon the scene exactly at the critical moment. We are not sure, however, that "flawless" applies at all points to the army's part in the affair, for it seems to be pretty generally believed that the transport Sumner did not sail on time, not by a week at least, and that even then she left behind a very considerable proporaccording to programme, she had been expected to take. There seems little due to the securely defended condition doubt that the army authorities in charge of the Sumner found it necessary, on reaching Havana, to borrow very freely from the naval authorities there in respect of meat and other supplies indis-

We can see that it would be unfair to charge this contretemps to the General Staff of the army, which the President lauds in terms of enthusiasm. With

pensable to the military ration.

sorbed in other business, not only the theoretical head, but the actual inspiration of the machinery was otherwise engaged, and to all intents and purposes unavailable. Perish the thought that we purpose to condemn even the most insignificant manifestation of error or futility. We yield to none in eagerness and confidence when it comes to asserting that the incident would have been flawless indeed had the President himself, or his accomplished suberdinate, the chief of the General Staff, been free to give undivided personal attention to the expedition. But this is a matter of fact and not of haleyon speculation; wherefore we venture to suggest that the "crisis in Cuba," so far as concerns the army's part in that now memorable drama, was enacted with something less than "flawlessness." Had not the naval storeships been on hand to remedy the Sumner's deficiencies, our troops would have found themselves on painfully short commons.

We are far from sure, in fact, that the Shafter expedition of 1898, organized and despatched in great haste and under circumstances of bewildering confusion was not better equipped and more completely self-sustaining in all essential respects than the military expedition of a few weeks ago represented by the

### The Santo Domingo Treaty.

While the original Santo Domingo treaty has not yet been definitely withdrawn, it is generally understood that its case is practically hopeless and that a new draft will be substituted. It is believed that a treaty can now be drawn in a form avoiding the assumption of certain responsibilities which were regarded as objectionable in the earlier convention

Under the terms of the treaty submitted on February 15, 1905, the United States agreed "to attempt the adjustment of all the obligations of the Dominican Government, foreign as well as domestic, the adjustment of the payment and the conditions of amortization: the consideration of conflicting and unreasonable claims and the determination of the validity and amount of all pending claims." The objections to the enterprise and to the necessary steps for its execution were many and serious. While the open opposition came from the Democratic side, it was no secret that a considerable degree of Republican support was for a number of reasons

somewhat less than half-hearted. The possible and perhaps probable substitution of a new treaty is the result of efforts made by agents of the Dominican Government to clear the situation through a refunding of the debts of the island. It is said that conditional arrangements have been made with the creditors for a settlement of all claims on a basis which will scale the debts of the island to an average of about sixty cents on the dollar and for their acceptance of a new bond issue in place of the various outstanding bonds and unliquidated claims. It is also said that similar conditional arrangements have been made for the financing of the new bond

While there would doubtless still remain in many minds a question of the wisdom of concerning ourselves so actively in the financial affairs of our neighbors, the most serious objections would be removed by the projected scheme. The United States would still continu to act as a depositary for a portion of the customs revenues of the island. Proper restrictions and safeguards could be provided by treaty agreement and the whole matter reduced to a mere routine proceeding. The alternative of our interference would probably be serious disorder in the island and possibly serious

complications with Europe. The projected arrangement is a big improvement over the original plan, and if it can be carried out there is every probability that a treaty providing for it would be approved by a safe majority.

A Crying Need of National Defence. President ROOSEVELT in that part of his message devoted to the needs of the army and navy observes that the mobilization and despatch of troops required to garrison Cuba upon the retirement of President PALMA was "a fine demonstration of the value and efficiency of the General Staff." It is a proper judgment and highly gratifying to the national pride, but suppose the General Staff were called upon to man our costly and complicated coast defences in the emergency of a threat of war by a strong naval Power, what then?

It is an unpleasant duty to acknowledge that the General Staff, in spite of its fine organization and intelligent direction, would be unequal to the emergency -in fact, its impotency could not be concealed from domestic critics or the foreign enemy, and the fault is at the door of Congress, which has fatuously failed to pass the Hull bill for the increase and reorganization of the artillery corps. At this time there is no recommendation in the Presidential message

more important than the following: There should soon be an increase in the number of men for our coast defences: these men should be of the right type and properly trained; and there should therefore be an increase of pay for certain

skilled grades, especially in the coast artillery." Commercial bodies in the coast cities have petitioned Congress to act favorably upon the Hull bill, dwelling upon the disparity between the guns in their defence works and the men to handle them; chiefs of staff, chiefs of artillery and division and department commanders have reported time and again that the crying need of the coast artillery is officers and men; President ROOSEVELT tion of the comn issary stores which, has addressed Congress on the subject in a special letter, pointing out that "it was of the Japanese ports that the Japanese fleet was free to seek out and watch its proper objective, the Russian fleet"; but the admirable and urgent Hull bill is still

unfinished business. In behalf of it Secretary TAFF appeared before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs on March 24 last, and

made this portentous statement: " Many of our guns are simply ofled or under General J. FRANKLIN BELL in Cuba, and | tarpaulin, or are laid up and not used at all. If with Mr. ROOSEVELT temporarily ab- we were called upon to go into a war we should

have to double or treble our present force at once; we should have to more than double it in order to give one shift for every battery."

If coast artillerymen could be made out of raw recruits in a hurry the deficiency would be no great matter, but a practical knowledge of electrical apparatus and intricate mechanical appliances is required of men who work high power rifled guns and searchlights. As General CHAFFEE has said, "Coast artillery personnel cannot be improvised; to be efficient it must have long and careful training." And what a farce it is that, except for a few electrician sergeants, there is the same company organization in the coast artillery that existed thirty years ago when the ordnance consisted of old smoothbore guns. Moreover, it has been necessary for the President to assign six companies to take charge of the submarine mine and torpedo defences, which should be in the hands of a specially trained organization and were formerly the care of the Engineer Corps.

We have the guns, the emplacements, and the electrical and steam plants required to work the guns, but the complement is far below that required for one complete manning detail. The Hull bill does not contemplate provision for such a detail, but only for a part of it; the addition of 5,043 men with their officers for the coast artillery, the increase to be made during five years from the date of the act. It also provides for an increase of 858 men to the field artillery, and the separation as organizations of the coast and field artillery, for the two branches have no relation to each other, the training for handling of them compulsory. field guns being radically different from that required for working high power guns of position.

Unless Congress at the short session passes the Hull bill—and no session is too short for the performance of such a pressing duty-there will be no relief for an overworked service and no remedy for a grave condition of national unpreparedness until the Sixtieth Congress meets, and the Lord only knows what may happen to a world Power in the next twelvemonth. The passage of the Hull bill should be a must with this Congress.

### Impostors at the Vatican

Why should the Vatican be infested ipon occasion by persons to whom at home, that is to say here in New York, every decent door is closed? We recognize the scope and comprehensiveness that may be ascribed to the doctrine of Infallibility, but the unaided imagination cannot compass how it is that the most conspicuous of our unpunished felons are welcomed now and then to special audience by the Holy Father. The citizen of this town who happens

to be in Rome during Easter or at some approximate season is apt to be startled by the court gossip that circulates in the morning corridors and which sets forth that his Holiness PIUS X. is to-day receiving in special and private audience at the Vatican Mr. So-and-So of New The visitor can hardly believe York. his ears. He asks himself, Why should a man whose name at home is a household word for everything that may be achieved outside of the penitentiary who is known only as a blackmailer and a public thief, why should such a man have the entrée to the presence of the Pope of Rome on terms which, in theory at least, are enjoyed only by persons proved distinction? We have had the question answered in a fashion to satisfy the exigencies of fantasy and of humor but never in a manner to mitigate the sense of shame and humiliation with which it impresses all right minded people. Why should the Pope, whatever the degree of his unconsciousness and however impervious the shield of his dignity and of his inherent nobility, why should the Pope be exposed to even the remotest contact with such men? One could readily understand it if they came as penitents, imploring spiritual succor and pardon for their crimes, breathing expiation and restitution, conformably to a religious belief. But they do nothing of the kind. They enter the sacred presence clad in the full panoply of their unmatched effrontery, and they leave it with an air of vulgar exaltation which finds its vent in many ensuing hours in barrooms and lobbies.

What is the power which breaks down for them the barriers and the restrictions with which prudence, propriety and reverend custom have hedged about the person of the supreme Pontiff? Would that those illustrious statesmen and Princes of the Church the Cardinals RAMPOLLA, SATOLLI and MERRY DEL VAL would deign to lift the veil!

Judge PETER S. GROSSCUP of the United States Court of Appeals for northern Illinois heartily agrees with the view that Judges should not be above criticism. There are few more constant all around critics.

Three of the five members of the committee appointed last summer to consider the proposed merger of the Andover Theological Seminary and the Harvard Divinity School report in opposition to the plan; the minority of two holds that affiliation with Harvard is desirable. The seminary has a glorious past, but its present is full of trouble and its future cloudy. If the Andover men cannot agree to ask the Harvard men to agree to take them in, it will take a long time to get the Andover corpse into the Harvard coffin.

The Hon. JOHN WESLEY GAINES of Tennessee is too unselfish. If Congressmen were paid according to their industry and activity he would get at least \$75,000 a year.

I feel that I ought to place on record in this connection the conviction of the Department that the only trustworthy safeguard of our country against injury from a hostile battleship is to have at least one American battleship ready to deal with her.—
The Hon. Charles J. Bonapartz, Secretary of the

And now Mr. ROOSEVELT will have to begin all over again with the Hon. VICTOR H. METCALF.

Colonel HENRY WATTERSON, who writes eight column "squibs" for a Louisville paper, finds Mr. ROOSEVELT's message too long.

Litigation is sometimes stranger than fiction. Boras Lukash and John G. Bep-NAB have gone to law about the title to a barnyard rooster valued at 50 cents. The case is to be tried at Easton, Pa., next week, LUKASH, who was a member of Commander

PRARY's last Polar expedition, is the kind of man whom learned lawyers delight to honor. He is as firmly resolved to have the rooster in dispute as PEARY was to gain the

BEDNAR " I don't care for the cost. I am not going to BEDNAR beat me. I sent my brother LEWIS \$60 to pay his car fare from California so that he can

dentify that rooster.' In a preliminary action before Squire CASEY each side had five witnesses, and nothing but the death of the fowl or the decree of the court of last resort will end the feud. To the cynic the stake is not worth fighting about. But more than a crowing cock is involved in the contro-Veracity, the right of property and family pride are at issue, and what is mere lucre compared with these? And then there's the stern joy of conflict. What though the lawyers get the substance of the litigants, as in the deathless cause in Rutland county, Vermont, where two farmers fought through several terms of court over a flour barrel worth 25 cents. Anybody can compromise a case, if the lawyers are willing; but it requires character to stay in the fight for principle, and only men of moral courage will struggle over a rooster. The same spirit which fires the parties to the celebrated case in Pennsylvania has led forlorn hopes, held besieged cities and overturned monarchies. May the best man

A dash for the Pole .- News despatch. Oh, who gives a dash for the Pole?

The Anti-Imperialist League reports gratifying progress. Some philanthropist has given it a neostyle, so that the cheering opinions of the Hon. MOORFIELD STOREY and the Hon. ERVING WINSLOW can be reproduced and distributed more easily. The next step must be to make the reading

To-day it would be difficult, if not impossible, to name a Democratic candidate likely to arouse more enthusiasm and poli more votes than Joseph W. FOLE.—Troy Press. He would arouse about as much enthu siasm as the hay fever or a tax bill. Come,

come! The poor old Democracy may be in doleful dumps, but it is not so hopeless as to long for FOLK.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In his sage as it is printed in the Congressional Record the President quotes Judge Holt of the New York District Court as having stated that "the Interstate Commerce act was past in 1887"; and a few lines below again cites the same authority to the effect that "Congress has repeatedly past legislation endeavoring

to put a stop to this evil. " &c. Will not THE SUN throw a little light on this matter and tell us why, if this act was "past" (and presumably over) so long ago, it should be invoked as having power to prevent the granting of rebates now? And by the same token, what sort of prohibitory value might that extraordinary Congressional legislation be expected to possess which is not merely past, but "repeatedly past"? Surely this indicates a superlative degree of obsoles which sounds phenomenal to those who were brought up in the old fashioned notion that "the past is past.

If you should feel disposed to ask him Judge Holt might be moved to tell us why he professes so much surprise at the inefficiency of such very dead legislation.

ALBERT D. WILLSON BRONKVILLE, December 6.

Tale of an Innocent Brooklynite. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have lately up golfing for exercise, and last Sunday, panied by a friend, went up to the Van Cortlandt Park golf links. When we arrived at the rounds no one was at the starting point except me man, a gentlemanly looking fellow, who, when I began to address the ball for the drive, criticised my method of doing it. Of course, as both my friend and myself are—I believe the golfing vernacular is-"duffers," we had no reason to become ded when he offered to show us how to swing the club. After we had made our drives he asked permission to accompany us around the links, and as he seemed to be a good fellow we had no objection to his accompanying us. He taught us how to make several strokes, but it was not until we were nearing the final hole that he intimated nor did we guess, that he was an instructor. Then, We were "stung," but could not well rub the smarting in public without exciting undue attention, se then he calmiy announced that his time was worth \$3 an hour we paid him without undue comment.

Don't you think that if instructors are to fre-quent the links they should have a bell tied to them, in order that they may not take advantage of unwary beginners? I think that they should be compelled to pay a license and to wear a badge. Especially is this protection due the ladies. This practice of trapping "suckers" in this manner is a common one, and I think it should be stopped

Brutal Indifference of the Aldermen TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Believing that the situation in regard to the police and fir chaplains has been misunderstood by the Finance Committee of the Board of Aldermen, I requested mission the other day from President McGowar to address that body and give my views on the subject. From the president and members of the oard I learned that I could not talk to the city fathers without the unanimous consent of the Only heads of departments and members may address that august body

This information may be of public interest, and it seems to me that any reputable citizen should be granted a hearing on any matter pertaining to the blic good, and the Aldermen, the closest repreof the people in the city government, in my humble opinion should be the last to refuse. JOHN P. M. MCNEIL.

## Economical Drinking.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: I have re cently noted a kind of graft in New York I never saw before. The other evening at one of the best nown and largest hotels in New York I saw a man at a table in the cafe order three or four rounds of drinks at different times as each newcomer ap When he went up to the cashier's to pay, by Jove, he paid only one check. I saw tear the others up when he had got on the street. Is there much of that going on? Don't the bar people know about it? The man in this ase is a well to do citizen of a suburban town, and a friend of his tells me he does that every chance he gets, and he gets a good many. J. H. G. V YORK, December 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In 1905 the aws of Japan did not permit a foreigner to hold real estate in Japan, and if a Japanese corporation borrowed money on bond or mortgage the payment thereof was a matter of honor, because trusteeship for allen bondholders was unknown to Japanese law.

The stringency due to the war with Russia may have made them change all this, but nevertheless the fact remains that they were willing for elever years to claim all the privileges of English or American citizens and give nothing in return. NEW YORK, December 7.

> Oh, give us a "brittle marriage," A fetter that we may break With comparative case henever we please, If we put up the proper stake.

Oh, give us a wife on trial, And then if we do not like The sample we've got, As easy as not We can give her the outward hike Oh, give us a trial husband, And if we're dissatisfied

For another, you know To whom we may point with pride Oh, give us a home on trial, A home that you read about, And then if we find It is not the right kind

We can let him go

The kicker may pack and move out Oh, give us a trial baby A bright little crowing cuss And then if we-say, Goldarn your new way

W. J. LAMPTON.

SKEWHORN.

Light on the Origin and Meaning of a Word Used by Lincoln. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The

following question appeared in THE SUN a lew days ago: Pennsylvania April 28, 1863, that "a small force of the enemy is flourishing about in the northern part Virginia on the skewhorn prin or some of your obliging readers tell me what h

My grandfather owned a cow, one of herd of perhaps forty. She was an ugly She used to kick the hired man when he went to milk her, and he, being possessed of a vocabulary of invective, talked to her in entences as epigrammatic and terse as Bernard Shaw's. One of her eyes was limpid brown The other was a calm, still, calculating white. One of her horns grew as it should, in a graceful curve over her lew brow. The other stuck out in front and swerved downward, upward and backward in a manner distinctly disconcerting to any elf-respecting cow who has any regard for her appearance. Her chief delight seemed be in getting out of the barnyard nights and ramping around the garden, eating the radishes, lettuce and cabbages. A poke was put on her and then she couldn't jump the fence. Another of her predatory habits consisted in the achievement of nour ishment by methods known to the sucking calf. She levied toll upon the other cows till grandfather put around her nose a strap filled with nails filed to a point. These coming in contact with the object of her endeavor caused the source of supply to gaze upon he with grieved looks and walk away "sort of sad like." Upon which proceeding, as grand father expressed it, old Skewhorn used to go down in the corner of the pasture lot and

eller like hell." The cow was known as Skewhorn. In our family the name came to be synonymous with the act of achievement by unfair or estionable means. An old man in a nearby village who made a business of "shaving was known as Old Skewhorn. other citizen, long suspected of stealing chickens, was referred to by name, with the added statement that probably he had "been skewhornin' around again," when fowls were nissed from the henhouse.

This word was not confined to western New York, where I heard it first, for I have discovered its use in Ohio and Pennsylvania applied with similar meaning. It is useful as a noun and as an adjective and it makes a good verb If I were making a new dictionary I should classify it variously, with illustrations thus:

Smith is an old skewhorn. ith lives on the skewhorn principle

Smith skewhorned me out of \$10. Smith is the skewhornedest man I over knew.

In fact, a whole vocabulary could be built up on the idea that a "skewhorn" is a person thing that achieves results by means not recognized as legitimate. Elementally the idea seems to be that ssential crookedness is physically apparent

to the trained observer, as in the case of the cow I have mentioned. A short session of deep thought on the matter will readily suggest to any one how true this is I believe therefore that THE SUN is right in saying that "one may readily imagine its

ense from the obliquity which inheres in skew. " and I trust that this definite and true statement of fact may give an idea the origin of the word used by Mr. Lincoln. It is a good word and should not be lost to HENRY CLAY P. O., Del., December 7.

### THE BOHEMIAN DISPUTE. Statement of the Rev. Mr. Prout's Attitude

Toward His Opponents. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: My stand is simply this: I am not against atheists having an atheistic school for their own children if they so desire, but I am against

school attended and supported by Chris tians. Jews and atheists alike and having in it teachers who abuse their position and imbue the minds of the children with ideas that God does not exist or that going to church is foolish. I am also against the newspapers that

revile religion and God and the names of good, respectable citizens. These periodicals are conducted in a manner that the American public would by no means stand for. In the matter of the library dispute, there

is only one book that I had excluded, and that was the poet Machar's. I did this be-cause he held up to ridicule Christ upon the cross. As for Zola and Oscar Wilde, I and the other (Presbyterian) clergymen present roted against them, but they were retained because the majority were in favor of it, and personally submitted to the committee'

decision without protesting. I here repeat that I am against abuses and have never attacked the morality and the law abiding spirit of the Bohemian colony at large. This is what the antagonistic local papers are trying to make out, and thus they are trying to prejudice the minds of the peo

ple against me My stand is the same as that which the Rev. Pisek was forced to take a number of JOHN E. PROUT. years ago. Rector of St. John's Church.

NEW YORK, December 6.

Brazilian Railways.

The Brazilian Review says that the coming Brazilian Administration will be a railroad one Dr. Affonso Penna has been deeply impressed dur-ing his tour of the interior by the want of comunication that restricts development practically

There are signs that in this direction there will soon be a great awakening, projects for through lines from north to south of Brazil and from east to west being already in preparation; the first by the powerful Ethelberga Syndicate, an ass of London and French bankers respons most of the State loans of 1904 and 1905, and the latter by the Great Western Brazil Railway, one of the most enterprising and best directed concerns in the country. The Great Western has already sent its engineers to study the route Pesqueira, the terminus of the old San Francisc Government line, and the Tocantins, with the idea of ultimately extending right across the continent to Arica on the Pacific. On this programme American engineers and American railway supplies will be in demand,

Stamp Mnemonics

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Observing that some one complains in THE SUN of the poor quality of postage stamp gum, I fancy he would offer him the following suggestion in a form easily

rememberable: To place a stamp. To make it stick Just lick the stamp,

And stamp the lick.
Of course, if he doesn't want to stamp the lick he can reach the same result by shoving the stamp down with his thumb, or sitting on it for a few minutes. But those prescriptions cannot be put up the same form as the one I first suggested NEW YORK, December 7. STAMPER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Fifty thou sand dollars is being spent where it will do the most good to make Boston more "liveable" for New Mayor Fitzgerald says that the is a joke to all travellers because they can't have a "wee nippy" after 11 P. M., and the Legislatur agreed with him so far as to pass a bill which will let some of the hotels seil hot stuff till midnight and still not have to keep their eyes looking up the street for the stern features of the Hon. John Butin Moran of "Me" fame. The voters are soon to have

Meanwhile, after theatre parties continue to fill ice tubs with bottles enough to last them EXILE. BOSTON, December 7.

Mr. Howells's Autobiography. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SIT: The Ohio

State Commissioner of Public Schools submits the following double question to teachers at county "Give two reasons why every American should be familiar with the life and works of William Dean Howells. What one of his works is autobiographi-

What is the answer to the latter question NEW YORK, December 7.

The Riddle of the Sphinx. The Sphing was propounding a riddle "Which makes the more trouble: a burst tire or rater pipe?

Herewith they were fain to give it up.

RESTRAINTS ON GENIUSES.

Awful Repressive Policy of Book and Magazine Publishers TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: "M.'s" letter in THE SUNDAY SUN will undoubtedly nterest more than one "genius" who is hidden in some secret corner of this remorse lessly successful country of ours. It is a common belief that genius will make its own way, that it will somehow triumph. so it will, if circumstances but half favor it. But no genius has yet existed who could

plunge his head through a stone wall. He must then either admit defeat sink down into darkness with his song unsung, lower his standards (which he will no do) or continue to clothe his beloved idols without joy, or recompense, or hope. feat is not a word that is relished in these days. To hint that your work is not successful is to draw too close a counterfeit of incompetence. For, does not merit inevitably come to the surface and assume its natura

So we believe until this tenderest of al illusions is crushed by the master mind of the modern publisher. The public, gorged to sickness with breakfast food fiction, does not know and cannot realize what is being kept from its table. The sources of literature are ever the same; the thoughts which ed in the distant ages and touched the hearts of men touch them now. The joys and corrows of the world will never diminish; they will never lose their hold on our sympathies. Beauty will never cease to inspire us

And even in America, even amid the giant monuments of enterprise; amid the crash nd roar of business, the strain and struggle for victory and power; amid the materia luxury, there are men whose souls sometimes move out toward the infinite. There are men who still believe in literature; who still yearn for that magic wand which shall open for them the sublimity and mystery of human

Such men wonder why literature is not being written; they wonder why the age does not produce a poet to give to life's ideals adequate expression. They do not know that between them and their desires stand the publisher and his inspired lieutenant, the professional reader.

It must cause, in all persons of feeling and ntellect, something deeper than resentment o know that there is any power whatever which may amother and condemn to oblivion that which would aid to the pleasure of man-kind and to the knowledge of life; that would bring before them the lights and shadows of the soul; the storms, the seas and the sunlit meadows of love, to reveal to them the delights miseries which may have echoed in their own existence.

Publishers are their own judges, and that is fair. They are business men, and there is no objection to that. They look for immediate and certain profits, which is wholly just, from any point of view. They handle books as they would handle circus lemonade, and still they are acting wholly within their rights. But beyond the publisher, beyond the worn and blighting eye of the professional reader, there is a world which yearns for stronger stuff than is being given to it. Let the appeal

Somewhere in the land there are men of both means and intellect who, on knowing the conditions, would find joy in bringing to light work which their judgment considered vorthy of life. And genius, once liberated by some champion, will no longer have anything to fear from the stupid and criminal callousness of commercial publishers.

THREE STARS. PITTSFIELD, Mass., December 6.

### REMARKABLE OVERSIGHT. One Subject Not Discussed in the Presi-

dent's Message. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The Presi of his silence on the liquor question. He says that the nation or man is disgraced if the obligation to defend right is shirked." Many thousand citi zens have appealed to the President to recommend to Congress that we cease to continue in partner-ship in a business that is destroying lives and homes throughout the nation, in the wholesale slaughter of men and women, by the licensed liquor traffic which has been perpetuated in our so-called Christian nation and continues year after year unmo

BROOKLYN, December 6.

Banking Notes. The starting of new national banks keeps pace have been chartered, with \$53,750,500 aggregate capital. The number started in each year was: 1900, 398; 1901, 412; 1902, 492; 1908, 515; 1904, 460; 1906, 486, and 1906, ten months, 394. During the same period and under authority of the act of 1884, banks to the number of 1,095, with authorized capital of making in all 3,157 new banks, with \$180,458,300

capital.	These	3,167	banks	were	distributed a
			N	umber.	Capital
Middle 1	Western	States		898	\$54,179.5
Southern	States			791	43.708.5
Western	States.		******	728	24.111.0
Eastern	States			519	39,846,5
Pacific S	tates			178	12.547.8
New Eng	rland St	atos		28	5,365,0
Hawaii	******			4	600,0
Porto R	co			1	100,00
				maked between	Table 1 to 100 t

3,157 The following figures of the increase in Canadian banking during the past ten years are suggestive

of the growth of pusines	s in the Do	minion:
	1896.	1906.
Deposits	\$185,000,000	\$607,000,000
Paid up capital	62,200,000	93,000,000
Also reserve, per cent	42	70
Specie and legal tenders	\$22,000,000	\$61,000,000
Loans and discounts	222,000,000	665,000,000
Total assets	320,000,000	890,000,000
It is evident that Gove	ernment po	st office savings
banks encourage thrift, j	udging by t	he rapid growth
of such banks in Grea	t Britain	during the past

Trade Reports. The figures follow: 10,000 15,000 Depositors ..... 5,000,000 10,000,000 .\$269,000,000 Average account 74.30 Running expenses per

ifteen years, as reported in Dany Consular and

Money is received by the post office from more than 1,000 schools and credited to the children. Five thousand penny banks keep accounts in the A strong bank has been formed in Berlin for the promotion of commercial and industrial relations with the United States and other American States. says the October 15 bulletin of the American Asso

ciation of Commerce and Trade. The capital stock is 25,000,000 marks (\$6,250,000), with 5,000,000 marks (\$1,250,000) paid in, and the remaining 20,000,000 marks (\$5,000,000), with 5 per cent. of the total capital, 2,500,000 marks (\$500,000), ha devoted to reserve fund and paid in. The bank was formed under the auspices of Landenburg, Thaimann & Co. of New York and the Bank für Thaimann & Co. of New York and the Bank fur Handel und Industrie of Berlin. It will be managed on the lines of American banking. In the list of founders appear the names of most prominent bankers and others in New York, Berlin, Hamburg. London, Amsterdam, Bremen and Mannhelm.

"At the recent general meeting in Berlin of the Bank for Central America, which was established a short time ago under the auspices of the Deutsche Bank," says the Times of London, "it was suggested that the German banking world had got in the promotion of institutions of this kind abroad. It was further alleged that even the founders of the bank had come to the conclusion that the political and economic situation in Centra! America per mitted of only a very limited sphere of operations. The bank has consequently been transformed into a limited company for undertaking building and kindred enterprises oversea, as well as for the purchase and sale of lands and the foundation of industrial concerns.

According to Consul General Miller of Yokohama. in Daily Consular and Trade Reports, the Yokohama Specie Bank is spreading out very considerably. Several branches and agencies have been established in Manchuria. One was recently added at Liaoyang by order of the Japanese Government. In Antunghien and Hankow, China, the bank also has agencies. Expansion of business necessitates new buildings at these branches, and also at the branches in Hawaii, Pekin and Tokio. The bank's expenses for its home and foreign offices are estiated at \$700,000 a year. The bank is about to issue notes in the Kwantung district and in China, under the supervision of the Japanese Foreign Office and Finance Department. The notes are exchange-able for sliver on demand, and the bank must keep a reserve of gold and silver (mostly the likely) equal to the value of the notes issued. These NEW BOOKS.

The Wonderful Island of Yaque

The reader will find a tale of the imagina tion in Zona Gale's story of "Romance Island" (The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis). St. George, the yachting reporter (already famous, of course), awoka one morning to find himself rich. The highest possibilities of life suddenly con. fronted him, and he grasped them with a certain hand. He bought a snow white yacht. He had a "man." He invites Chillingworth, the city editor, to dinner. It is pleasant enough to think upon his glittering circumstances. "Everything ready, Rollo? Is the claret warmed! Did the glasses come for the liqueur? Then take the cigars to the den. You'll have to get some cigarettes. Keep up the fire Light the candles in ten minutes. I say how jolly the table looks."

We'll bet that even Chillingworth felt

privileged and flattered and that the linner was good to his midst. The story develops a good deal of a plot before the snow white yacht sails away for the island of Yaque in the seventh chapter. Prince Tabuit, who is curiously declared to have had lodgings in "McDougle street only a few blocks from Washington Square," was himself a curious personality. His snow white hair crowning a dark and youthful face was curious. So was his neckcloth "closely wound in folds of soft white and fastened by a rectangular green jewel of notable size and brilliance." So was the tale he told of the island of Yaque, a place which has been overlooked by geographers, both ancient and modern, but which "has been ruled by hereditary monarchs since 1050 B. C., when it was settled." For centuries the Prince declared there had been in the keeping of the High Council of Yaque a casket containing what was known as the Hereditary Treasure. Only lately this treasure had disappeared-vanished "as utterly as if the Fifth Dimension had re ceived it." At this point it seemed to us that St. George might well have asked himself what a snow white yacht was for. It did not surprise us when, in the seventh chapter, we found the yacht making its way through tropic seas.

It is proper and possible for us to afford only the slightest suggestions of what Yaque was like. At page 144 it says: "St. George was silent. It was as if he were on the threshold of Far Away, within the Porch of the Morning of some day divine. The place was so poignantly like the garden of a picture that one has seen as a child and remembered as a place past all speech beautiful, and yet failed ever to realize in after years, or to make any one remember, or save fleetingly in dreams to see once more, since the picture book is never, never chanced upon again." Again at page 151 it speaks of "high, pyramidal shrines" and great places of quiet and straight line." "It was as if some strange comand says: pound had changed the character of the dark itself, transmitting it to a subtle essence more exquisite than light, inhabiting t with wonders. And high above their heads, where this translucence seemed to mix with the pper air and to fuse with moonbeams, sprang almost joyously the pale domes and cornices of the place, sending out floating streamers and pennons of colors nameless and unknown." That is the merest glimpse of the wonders that the island of Yaque had to show. They had had automobiles on the island since the time of Columbus.

We shall not tell about Olivia, the young lady who sailed with St. George from New York, or about the Hereditary Treasure, or about anybody or anything else. Let the reader buy the book and learn for himself what followed when "in t e late hours of the next afternoon Rollo, with a sigh, uncoiled himself from the shadow of the altar to the god Melkarth in the Ilex Temple and stiffly rose." The book has happenings as well as scenery, and there is much to amuse

The Mad Last Visconti.

Fairly tremendous is Marjorie's Bowen's tory of "The Viper of Milan" (McClure, Phillips & Co.). The author of this tale, as we learn from a number of English newspaper notices that the publishers send out with it, was only 18 years old when she wrote her book, and moreover her name is not really Marjorie Bowen. The publishers send out, too, a portrait of the young story writer, who is distinctly good looking, and so we have a good deal of prelim-

inary interest and encouragement. But the story itself, as we have declared, is strong matter for the reader. Names of emphasis besides viper might properly be bestowed upon the last Visconti celabrated here, as the reader will not be de laved in learning. Truly infamous man this probably mad Duke of Milan, and Marjorie Bowen shows him up in fine fashion She shows him first driving his old father and mother away to their death. On a day in early summer in the year 1360 this pair rode from Milan to the dark castle at Brescia. Such mocking state as they rod in! Their coach, "a cumbrous structu swung high on massive gilded wheels." It was open, shaded by an embroidered canopy of scarlet silk. Four black horses drew it, and at the head of each hors walked a giant negro dressed in scarle and gold. The pair in the coach were old and shrivelled, but richly dressed at adorned. The old man's thin and yellow hands were loaded with rings. The woman, "painted and bedizened under a large red wig, was weighed down by gown of cloth of gold," and wore pearls ground her neck. Behind rode the Duk a slight and handsome man of 30, or horse that was likewise led. As he he read aloud from a roll of parchmen that he carried in one hand. What he was poetry. In his other hand he car: a whip with which he teased and occas ally cut sharply the aged pair, his father and mother, in the coach in front of him.

The reader will begin immediately to wish that something dreadful may the Duke. As the tale goes on he will it more and more. If only the deth and wickedly wronged Della Scala. I of Verona, could have got fairly he him as he came galloping back, a madman, from the murder of his old and mother! The story records horse was upon him. Swift as the Della Scala leaped and clutched the in a hand of steel. But the mad defeated him. He was dragged like a reed; only his own great for the moment saved him. And wild shouts were added to the rider struck upward with his dagger: blindly. 'Do you not know me, V he called. 'Do you not know me his dagger was dashed from him horse's foam blinded him as it spraperately on. He heard Visconti's scream, and as the earth whirled with him caught one fleeting glim the white, distorted, hated fache was prone upon the ground, an conti, spurring on his way, looke

upon him with triumphant yells." Poor Della Scala! Deserving and man as he was, fate was against If only his ally, the commercial ap-Duke of Carrara, had not allowed had to be bribed! If only the subterrangen